THE

Theatrical Observer;

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

No. 650 *Saturday, Dec.* 20, 1823. *Price* 1*d.*

Covent Garden Theatre.

HAMLET.

Mr. YOUNG's *Hamlet* is considered one of his finest performances. He certainly gives to the distracted, yet accomplished Prince, all the air of mysterious melancholy, and of polished education, that it requires: but if we refer to the idea of *Hamlet's* age, there is a little obstruction to a full conception of the youthfulness of the character, in Mr. YOUNG's appearance and manner. This is not his fault: and, perhaps, it is a point that should not be materially dwelt upon, for there are few actors who have presented matured powers, united with natural youthfulness of figure. The most successful of Mr. YOUNG's acting was in the Play-scene, and that with the Queen. In these, he presented the highest attributes of the histrionic art. He completely yields himself up to the character, and we forget every thing but *Hamlet*—the idolizing son of a lamented, murdered father, devoting each hope of honor and of love, to the manes of his revered parent—intent only on proof of the guilt imputed, and, subsequently, on its obtainment, brooding over a just revenge.

After the long career of distinction which Mr. Young has enjoyed, it is but a work of superfluous praise to dwell on his distinguished merits. The Public are well aware of them; and never have we seen an audience neglect to mark their full appreciation of their value.

Timour followed, and its splendour gave great delight.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

On Monday, *Julius Cæsar.* Marc Antony, Mr. C. Kemble, Brutus, Mr. Young, Cassius, Mr. Cooper.—On Tuesday, *The Cabinet,* Prince Orlando, Mr. Sinclair, Floretta, Miss Paton.—On Friday, *Jane Shore,* Gloster, Mr. Yates, Lord Hastings, Mr. C. Kemble, Dumont, Mr. Cooper, Jane Shore, Miss Lacy, Alicia, Mrs. Faucit.—after which, a new grand Comic Christmas Pantomime, called "*Harlequin and Poor Old Robin; or, the House that Jack Built.*"

Drury Lane Theatre.

Guy Mannering was represented last night. We have so lately noticed the performance of this Operatic Drama here, that we have only to repeat our admiration of the manner in which the whole piece

is acted, and the music executed. Mr. BRAHAM, as *Henry Bertram*, and Miss STEPHENS, as *Miss Bertram*, had several encores. Mr. HORN, Miss POVEY, MISS CUBITT, &c. sang very effectively; and Mr. LISTON's *Dominie Sampson*, was, as usual, highly amusing.—There was a good house.

This Evening, the doors of this Theatre, will be opened a Quarter after Six, and the Performances commence a Quarter before Seven.

On Monday, *King Richard the Third*—On Tuesday *The Hypocrite*—On Friday, *Jane Shore*, and a grand comic Christmas Pantomime, called *Harlequin and Lignum Vitæ; or, the Flying Chest.*—(Founded on the popular Persian Tale of "Malek and the Princess Schirine.") The Music, extensive Scenery and Machinery, Dresses and Decorations entirely new.

EPITOME OF THE STORY.

Lignum Vitæ, the great Eastern Machinist, having constructed a CHEST, that will transport its occupants to any desired place, resigns himself to repose.—He is, however, disturbed by the information that the Princess Schirine still pines a solitary prisoner in the Castle of One Hundred Gates, built for her father, the Sultan of Garna, by the magic arts of the Afrite Niger, who loving Schirine, had rendered it inaccessible purposely to elude the threat of her Horoscope, that predicted her marriage with a man of ruined fortunes. To thwart these plans, Lignum Vitæ directs Malek, the youth designed by the prediction, to enter the FLYING CHEST, and attempt the liberation of the Princess. The CHEST then, being stored with various phosphoric and destructive missiles, in case of an encounter, rapidly cleaves the air, and alights on the Terrace of the Palace, which Malek and his attendant, Quirko, enter on the departure of the Sultan and train.—Schirine, delighted with her lover, is about to escape with him, when the Sultan and his Guards, rush in, and bear off the Princess. After some further contest, the usual transformations and fun of the Harlequinade commence.

THE ADELPHI and OLYMPIC Theatres, were well attended last night. There is plenty to laugh at, in the performances at both these Temples of Fun.

To the Editor of The Theatrical Observer.

SIR,—MYSELF and a few friends talking over Theatricals the other night, could not restrain our surprise at not seeing the name of that veteran favorite, MUNDEN, appear lately in the Bills of Drury Lane Theatre. If you can throw any light on the *cause*, you will oblige a knot of his admirers. We hope it is not his old enemy the GOUT. Your's, T. B.

We hear, Mr. MUNDEN has, unfortunately, had some dispute with the Manager.—ED.

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Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

By Special *Desire.*

This Evening the Comedy of

Simpson and Co.

Peter Simpson, Mr TERRY, Foster, Mr WEBSTER,
Mr Bromley, Mr BROWNE, John, Mr HONNOR,
Mrs Fitzallan, Miss SMITHSON.
Mrs Simpson, Miss BOYCE, Mrs Bromley, Mrs W. WEST,
Madame La Trappe, Mrs ORGER.

After which a Grand Drama called The

Cataract of the Ganges.

Ackbar, (*Emperor of Hindustan*) Mr POWELL,
Jam Sahib, (*The Rajah of Guzerat*) Mr. YOUNGE,
Mokarra, (*Grand Brahmin of the Jahrejah Tribe*) Mr WALLACK,
Iran, (*a young Hindu Warrior,*) Mr PENLEY,
Mokagee, (*a Hindu Peasant*) Mr J. BARNES,
Ambassador, (*from the Emperor of Hindustan*) Mr WEBSTER,
Mordaunt, (*an Officer in the English Army,*) Mr ARCHER,
Jack Robinson, (*Mordaunt's Servant,*) Mr HARLEY,
Combatants by Messrs. BLANCHARD, PAULO, & HOWELL,
Dessa, (*Daughter of the Emperor of Hindustan*) Miss PHILLIPS
Zamine, (*of Guzerat,*) Miss L. KELLY,
Matali, (*a female Hindu Peasant of the Jhalla,*) Miss GREEN,
Ubra, (*her Daughter*) Miss POVEY,

To conclude with (by permission of the Proprietors of the Haymarket Theatre) the Farce of

A Fish out of Water,

Sir George Courtley, Mr POPE, Alderman Gayfare, Mr GATTIE,
Charles Gayfare, Mr PENLEY, Steward, Mr J. BARNES,
Sam Savoury, Mr LISTON,
George, Mr POVEY, Servants, Messrs Sutton, Brady, and Colson.
Ellen Courtley, Miss CUBITT, Lucy, Miss GREEN.

On Monday, Richard the Third, with the Cataract.

XUM

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening the Opera of

Lord of the Manor.

Sir John Contrast, Mr FAWCETT,
Rashly, Mr PYNE, Young Contrast, Mr JONES,
Trumore, Mr SINCLAIR, who will introduce
The Soldier's Gratitude,
and the DUET, with Miss M. TREE,
Though you leave me now in sorrow, [from Rob Roy]
Rentall, Mr CHAPMAN, Huntsman, Mr ISAACS,
La Nippe, Mr FARLEY,
Corporal Drill, Mr Baker, Corporal Snap, Mr Henry
Sergeant Sash, Mr HORREBOW,
Sophia, Miss M. TREE, who will introduce the Songs
of *Should he upbraid*, and *When in disgrace*, &c
Annette, Miss PATON,
who will introduce *A Nightingale sung*, [T. Welsh]
Once a knight, oh my story is true, [Reeve]
March away, [Bishop]
Moll Flaggon, Mr BLANCHARD,
Peggy, Miss LOVE,

To which will be added the Farce of

The Irish Tutor.

Dr. Flail, Mr BLANCHARD, Charles, Mr BAKER,
Mr Tillwell. Mr CHAPMAN. Terry O'Rourke, Mr CONNOR,
Rosa, Miss J. SCOTT, Mary, Miss LOVE.

To conclude with the Farce of

Cent per Cent.

Mr Pennyfarthing, Mr W. FARREN,
Charles Hoyeful, Mr BAKER, Capt. Dashmore, Mr ABBOTT,
Col. Tumbril, Mr BLANCHARD,
Dr. O'Rafferty, Mr CONNOR, Starch, Mr JONES,
Dibbs, Mr MEADOWS, Langley, Mr LEY, Slugg, Mr MASON
Miss Deborah Tumbril, Mrs DAVENPORT,
Charlotte Tumbril, Miss BEAUMONT,
Mrs Pennyfarthing, Mrs VINING, Emily Pennyfarthing, Miss Henry

On Monday, Julius Cæsar, with Cortez.